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Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management

(New York, 23-27 February 1998)

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I. Introduction

1. The Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management met (New York, 23-27 February 1998) in preparation for consideration of the issue of freshwater management by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session (New York, 20 April - 1 May 1998). The discussions were based on the recommendations and proposals for action contained in two reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1998/2 and Add. 1 and E/CN.17/1998/3) and in the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management (Harare, Zimbabwe, 27-30 January 1998) (E/CN.17/1998/11). The discussions also benefited from national presentations by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation, describing their efforts in achieving integrated freshwater development and management.

2. The participants noted the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources and Sustainable Development (Paris, France, 19-21 March 1998) which is expected to provide additional opportunity for further consideration of various aspects of strategic approaches to freshwater management in preparation for the sixth session of the Commission, in particular the need for improving knowledge of water resources and water users; promoting human resources and institutional capacity-building; and identifying appropriate financial resources. Similarly, a contribution to the sixth session of the Commission is expected from an international forum, Global Water Politics: Cooperation for Transboundary Water Management (Bonn, Germany, 3-5 March 1998).

3. The outcome of the Working Group meeting is not a negotiated text, although its contents were thoroughly discussed. In accordance with the expert nature of the Working Group and the functions assigned to it, the report focuses on key issues and conclusions and suggests elements and policy options for further consideration and negotiation during the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

II. Background

4. Water resources are essential for satisfying basic human needs, health and food production, the restoration and maintenance of ecosystems, and for social and economic development in general. Agriculture accounts for the major part of global freshwater use. It is imperative that water resources development, management and protection should be planned in an integrated manner, taking into account both short- and long-term needs.

5. The priority to be accorded to the social dimension of freshwater management is of fundamental importance. This should be reflected in an integrated approach to freshwater in order to be coherent with the objective of achieving sustainable development that is truly people-centred.

6. The objectives of sustainable development and the links among its three components – economic development, social development and environmental protection – were clearly articulated in Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration. The specific decisions and policy recommendations concerning freshwater development, management and use in chapter 18 of Agenda 21 and the identification of the seven key programme areas contained in that chapter continue to be a basis for action.

7. There is evidence of progress in improving some aspects of freshwater resource management since 1992. Marked improvements in water quality have occurred in a number of river basins and groundwater aquifers where pressures for action have been strong. However, while many lessons have been learned, overall progress has been neither sufficient nor comprehensive enough to reduce general trends of increasing water shortages, deteriorating water quality and growing stress on freshwater ecosystems. Water need not become a limiting factor for sustainable development and human welfare. A series of potential crises can be averted if vigorous action is taken now towards an integrated approach to freshwater resource development, management and use.

8. Competition for limited freshwater increasingly occurs between agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental uses. In adopting the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[1] in particular its paragraph 34, the General Assembly articulated the multiple dilemmas and challenges associated with the management of freshwater. They recognized, *inter alia*, the urgent need to formulate and implement national policies of integrated watershed management in a fully participatory manner aimed at achieving and integrating economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. In addition to agreeing to those strategic principles, the General Assembly also recognized an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation to support local and national action, in particular in the fields of environment and development, safe water supply and sanitation, food security and agricultural production, and flood and drought control, through efforts in areas such as information exchange, capacity-building, technology transfer and financing.

9. In accordance with the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, Governments called for a dialogue under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, beginning at its sixth session, aimed at

building a consensus on the necessary action and, in particular, the means of implementation and tangible results, in order to consider initiating a strategic approach for the implementation of all aspects of the sustainable use of freshwater for social and economic purposes, including, *inter alia*, safe drinking water and sanitation, water for irrigation, recycling, and wastewater management, and the important role freshwater plays in natural ecosystems. That intergovernmental process will be fully fruitful only if there is a proven commitment by the international community to the provision of new and additional financial resources for the goals of the initiative.

III. Key issues and challenges

10. The process called for in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 should focus on fostering and supporting national and international action in those areas where goals and objectives have been defined; identification of existing gaps and emerging issues; building global consensus where further understanding is required; and promoting greater coordination in approaches by the United Nations and relevant international institutions, particularly in support of national implementation policy and development.

11. Numerous gaps can be identified in the path towards integrated water management which need to be addressed by Governments with support from the international community. Areas that require further attention include, among others: awareness of the scope and function of surface and groundwater resources; the need for human resource development and participatory approaches, notably including women; the role of ecosystems in the provision of goods and services; balancing structural and non-structural approaches; explicit linkages with socio-economic development, including sound economic policies, for equitable and efficient freshwater allocation and use; improved sanitation and waste-water treatment; conserving the biological diversity of freshwater ecosystems; understanding hydrology and the capacity to assess the availability and variability of water resources; and the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources. Strategic and integrated actions are still needed in order to adapt to ever changing social and environmental circumstances and to address fundamental concerns for combating poverty, ensuring adequate provision of public health, food security and energy, and better to protect the environment.

12. International cooperation and action needs to address effectively the above issues, building on existing consensus for the successful implementation of integrated water resource development and management.

13. The implementation of integrated water development and management strategies requires action at all levels. However, most decisions and actions related to integrated water management need to take place at the local and national levels. Those actions should be closely related to other areas of natural resource management, including land, forestry and mountain development. Effective integrated water resource management should incorporate approaches dealing with river basins, catchments, watersheds and ecosystems.

14. There is need to ensure that local and national management plans are in a position to bring about productive and sustainable interactions between human activities and the ecological functioning of freshwater systems. There is also need to minimize impacts from human activities on coastal areas, estuarine and marine environments, and in mountainous areas, and to reduce potential losses from droughts and floods, erosion, desertification and natural disasters. Furthermore, pollution prevention, sanitation and the treatment of waste water need to be addressed.

15. Riparian States are encouraged to cooperate on matters related to international watercourses. This important issue requires further consideration by the Commission and in other relevant forums.

IV. Actions and means of implementation

16. Governments are invited to intensify efforts to develop local and national integrated water resource development and management programmes and policies, as recommended in Agenda 21. Governments at the appropriate level should set and publish target dates for the adoption or updating of local or national action programmes for implementing such programmes. The implementation of local or national programmes should form an important part of the local Agenda 21 approach.

17. In formulating and implementing integrated water resource management policies and programmes, there is need to take into account actions to implement relevant conventions in force, in particular conventions on biological diversity, desertification, climate change, and wetlands and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES). In addition, consideration should be given, as appropriate, to relevant recommendations and/or programmes of action emanating from a number of major international conferences and events, including the Global Programme of Action for the

Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[3] the Mar del Plata Action Plan,[4] the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,[5] the International Conference on Water and the Environment: Development Issues for the 21st Century (Dublin, 1992);[6] the World Summit for Social Development;[7] the Fourth World Conference on Women;[8] the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);[9] and the World Food Summit.[10] Furthermore, in formulating such policies, Governments are called upon to address the need for achieving universal access to water supply and sanitation, with poverty eradication being one of the means, taking into account, in particular, chapter 18 of Agenda 21, the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s (New Delhi, 1990)[11] and the recommendations of the 1994 Noordwijk Action Programme on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation.[12]

18. The holding of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management and its report are noted with appreciation. In formulating and implementing policies and programmes, Governments are invited to consider the key recommendations of the report.

A. Information for decision-making

19. Governments are encouraged to establish and maintain effective information and monitoring networks and further promote the exchange and dissemination of information – including related socio-economic and environmental data, gender differentiated, where appropriate – needed for policy formulation, planning and investment decisions and operational management of freshwater resources, and encourage the harmonization of data collection at the basin/aquifer level. Public access to this information should be facilitated. This includes the need to improve the understanding of hydrology (surface and groundwater) and the function of ecosystems and to strengthen relevant information systems better to foresee and manage resource uncertainty. Such efforts on the part of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, require support from the international community.

20. Governments are encouraged to implement and monitor national water-related indicators of progress in achieving integrated water resource management, including water quality and quantity objectives, taking into account ongoing work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on indicators of sustainable development.

21. In addition, in accordance with their policies, priorities and resources, Governments may find it useful to carry out national water quality and quantity inventories for surface water and groundwater, including the identification of gaps in regard of available information.

22. Governments are invited to establish or strengthen mechanisms for consultations on drought and flood preparedness and early warning systems and mitigation plans at the local and national levels. Governments are encouraged to consider the establishment of systems – which may take the form of emergency funds, where appropriate – to ensure that individuals and communities can be compensated for the damage that they suffer from such extreme events. At the international level, there is, in particular, need to maintain support of these activities at the conclusion of the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction.

23. The international community should support national efforts in the areas outlined above. The United Nations system is called upon to play a central role in the development and coordination of relevant data and information networks, strengthen regional and global monitoring systems, carry out periodic global assessments and analyses, and promote the broadest exchange and dissemination of relevant information, in particular to developing countries.

B. Institutions, capacity-building and participation

24. Governments are urged to establish national coordination mechanisms, as already envisaged in the Mar del Plata Action Plan, providing for the involvement of all relevant parts of government and public authorities, in the formulation and implementation of integrated water resource development and management plans and policies. Such mechanisms should also provide for consultation with major groups. This involves the participation of water users and the public in planning, implementing, and evaluating water projects.

25. Governments are invited to take the necessary steps to establish legislative and regulatory frameworks – and to improve such frameworks where they exist – to facilitate integrated water resource management and strategies, including both demand and supply management, taking into account the need to improve capacity to apply and enforce such frameworks. Each Government needs to define its relevant functions and distinguish between those related to standards, regulation-setting and control, on the one hand, and the direct management and provision of services, on the other.

26. In view of the complexity of implementing integrated water resource development and management strategies, Governments should strengthen institutional and human

capacities at the national and local levels. At the local level, this could be done through local Agenda 21 processes, where they exist. Effective water resource management and protection requires appropriate tools for educating and training water management staff and water users at all levels and for ensuring that women and youth have equal access to education and training programmes.

27. Governments are encouraged to establish an enabling environment to facilitate partnerships between public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations, aiming towards improved local capacity to protect water resources, through significant outreach educational programmes and improved public access to information. The pivotal role of women should be reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources. There is a need to strengthen the role of women, who should have an equal voice with regard to water resource development and management and the sharing of benefits.

28. In support of national efforts in this field, the international community, in particular the organizations of the United Nations system, should strengthen capacity-building programmes, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the specific circumstances of small island developing States, in such areas as training, institutional development and the participation of women.

C. Technology transfer and research cooperation

29. Governments are encouraged to stimulate and remove impediments to research and development cooperation, together with the development of technologies for sustainable water management and use, and to increase efficiency, reduce pollution and promote sustainable agriculture and food production systems. This involves the adaptation and diffusion of new and innovative techniques and technologies, both private and public, and the transfer of technologies to developing countries, *inter alia* on concessional terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights. The use of local and traditional technology and knowledge should be promoted, and South/South cooperation should be encouraged.

30. Governments, industry and international organizations should promote technology transfer and research cooperation to foster sustainable agricultural practices which promote efficient water use and prevent pollution of surface water and groundwater. These technologies should include the improvement of crops grown on marginal sites, erosion control practices, and the adaptation of farming systems. They should also improve water efficiency in both irrigated and rain-fed areas and improve the adaptation and productivity of drought-tolerant crop species. Farmer participation in farm research, irrigation projects and watershed management should be encouraged. Research results and technologies should be available to both small and large producers.

31. In order to help increase the supplies of freshwater, research cooperation and technology transfer to developing countries are desirable in the areas of desalination, brackish water treatment, waste-water treatment and desert dew catchment and in the use of remote-sensing techniques and other relevant modern technologies.

32. Water management provides an opportunity for technology cooperation projects involving partnerships between the public and private sectors. Governments are urged to promote innovative approaches.

33. The Commission on Sustainable Development should call upon all relevant parties to develop and implement best practices and appropriate technologies in the area of water development and management. Codes of conduct, guidelines and other voluntary agreements can enhance the positive role that industry and agriculture can play and should cover the activities of companies operating and investing outside their home countries.

34. Governments are encouraged to make the best use of national, regional and international environmentally sound technology centres.

35. Donor countries and international organizations are urged to intensify their efforts to facilitate their transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including publicly owned technology; to accelerate their technical assistance programmes to developing countries, aimed at facilitating the choice and acquisition of appropriate technologies and their transfer and diffusion; and to promote exchanges of know-how. The United Nations system has an important role to play as a clearing house in putting those in need of assistance in contact with those able to provide it.

D. Financial resources and mechanisms

36. As stated in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the intergovernmental process on freshwater, under the aegis of the Commission, will be fully fruitful only if there is a proven commitment by the international community for the provision of new and additional financial resources for its goals.

37. New and additional financial resources for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, will need to be mobilized for the development and management of freshwater resources if the broader aims of sustainable development are to be realized, particularly in relation to poverty eradication. Existing resources currently allocated to the freshwater sector should be used effectively, which should help mobilize additional finance from all sources, both public and private.

38. Official development assistance should complement and focus on programmes aimed at meeting basic human needs, including freshwater development and management, structural reform, protection of ecosystems, sustainable management of resources, and promoting participation and capacity-building. Donors, including multilateral donor institutions, should be ready to continue, or even reinforce, the support for programmes and projects in the water sector which will reduce or eliminate poverty. In addition, donors should persist in trying to meet international development targets. Projects supported by donors need to be capable of becoming financially self-sustaining once the initial investment is complete. Donors should also consider support for the freshwater sector in light of cross-sectoral interests such as desertification and climate change.

39. The private sector represents an important new source of investment in the water sector. Local and national water management systems should therefore be designed in ways that encourage and support public/private partnerships. It is important to ensure that water management systems are organized so that they will be robust and, once established, can support themselves. The introduction of enabling financial framework conditions will be of paramount importance, if private sector finance is to be mobilized.

40. Governments are urged to strengthen consultative mechanisms aimed at improving donor/recipient schemes for the mobilization of financial resources in a well-targeted and predictable manner, based on local and national programmes of action, with a special focus on integrated water resource management which recognizes the needs of vulnerable groups and people living in poverty.

41. All costs must be covered, whether by water users or the public-sector budget, if the provision of water is to be viable. Cost recovery needs to be gradually phased in by water utilities or the public sector, taking into account the specific conditions of each country. Subsidies for specific groups, particularly people living in poverty, are required in some countries. Governments could benefit from sharing experience in this regard.

42. In the light of commitments on resources in relation to water made at the World Summit for Social Development and at the Fourth World Conference on Women, initiatives should be undertaken to help identify and mobilize more resources – human, technical (know-how) and financial – and take into account the 20/20 initiative in accordance with national policies. Resources should be focused on local and national programmes that are consistent with the key issues. A fundamental aim must be to promote the generation of the resources needed for proper water supply, sanitation and water management systems and their efficient and effective deployment. Governments are invited to allocate sufficient public financial resources for the provision of water supply and sanitation to meet basic human needs and for waste-water treatment.

43. Governments, when using economic instruments for guiding the allocation of water, are urged to take into account considerations of environmental requirements, efficiency, transparency and equity, taking into particular account the needs of vulnerable groups and people living in poverty.

44. International financial support will continue to be important, particularly in helping to find ways of removing constraints on the development of local and national water management systems. Existing international financial support arrangements should be reviewed, to see if they can be made more effective in this task. Governments, with the support of the international community, needs to promote and examine the economic, social and environmental values provided by ecosystems and the cost of their degradation.

45. The international community could give consideration to creating a financial mechanism to promote the efforts of developing countries in the development, management, distribution and use of water resources. Such a mechanism could draw upon existing funds and be supported by existing administrative arrangements. The discussion of this proposal should include consideration of the following challenges/issues:

(a) Promoting more effective donor coordination and more effective and creative use of existing resources;

(b) Generation and allocation of new and additional financial resources from all sources;

(c) The inclusion of resources in the form of direct grants and loans in concessional terms;

(d) A quantified resources programme, in accordance with the needs of developing countries;

(e) Resources contributions by industrialized countries and international financial institutions, including regional institutions;

(f) Formulation of financial strategies which include possible partnerships with non-governmental organizations

and the private sector and the promotion of conditions for increased private financial flows;

(g) The strengthening of consultative mechanisms by Governments and the international community aimed at making freshwater a development priority and at improving dialogue between industrialized and developing countries in a well targeted and predictable manner, based on national actions and plans, with a special focus on integrated water resource management that recognizes the needs of vulnerable groups and people living in poverty. This could include exploring the potential of new financial arrangements.

V. Follow-up and assessment

46. Governments are invited to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development in the year 2002 on actions they have undertaken towards the development and implementation of national integrated water resource development management policies. The Secretariat is invited to continue collecting, analysing and disseminating national information, promoting exchanges of such information and developing relevant databases.

47. To facilitate progress at the national level, interested Governments and organizations are strongly encouraged to organize, in support of the work of the Commission, meetings and activities aimed at exchanges of experiences and best practice on specific issues proposed by Governments. Such meetings, *inter alia*, should promote exchanges of information on local and national action programmes and community-based efforts to implement the provisions of Agenda 21 relevant to freshwater, especially advances in integrated water resource and watershed management.

48. The Commission should give consideration to possible specific modalities of an intergovernmental dialogue on freshwater, to take place after its sixth session. The goal would be to take stock of progress achieved at all levels and give further guidance to various activities leading to a more comprehensive review in the year 2002. Possible options include:

(a) Addressing the issue of freshwater during one of the ad hoc inter-sessional groups of the Commission which will meet in 2000;

(b) Consolidating the work and functions of the Committee on Natural Resources into the Committee on Sustainable Development so as to provide the capacity for continuing intergovernmental dialogue on freshwater issues, subject to the outcome of ongoing discussions in the context of follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227 on the reform of the Economic and Social Council's subsidiary bodies;

(c) Organizing a special inter-sessional meeting in the year 2000 to be funded through extrabudgetary resources or sponsored by interested Governments.

49. The United Nations system, in support of the intergovernmental dialogue in the Commission, acting through the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, and working in collaboration with international institutions outside the system, is invited to elaborate, for consideration by Governments through the Commission, in the year 2000, an international implementation programme containing action-oriented recommendations on ways and means to enhance coordination within the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21 which will outline ways and means to encourage international support for national actions. Such recommendations should:

(a) Systematize various objectives identified for the United Nations system in Agenda 21 and other relevant international declarations and programmes of action;

(b) Suggest on the basis of analysis of experience gained in the United Nations system, ways and means to enhance coordination in order to raise the effectiveness of support to the implementation of objectives identified in chapter 18 of Agenda 21;

(c) Suggest practical ways and actions to reach such objectives through various services offered by international institutions, in such areas as capacity-building, infrastructure development, research, policy advice, etc. This should include the implementation of recommendations to the United Nations system contained in the present report (see paras. 23, 28 and 35);

(d) Define effective division of responsibilities and consider ways of increasing efficiency in programme delivery, including the avoidance of unnecessary overlap and duplication, and possibilities for joint programming;

(e) Explore the potential of basin-level arrangements, where appropriate, drawing upon the experience gained in existing regional programmes in the United Nations system;

(f) Identify benchmarks and time-frames for implementation, and necessary actors, both within and outside the United Nations system;

(g) Identify all possible sources of finance for implementation.

50. The United Nations Environment Programme should, in collaboration with other members of the ACC Subcommittee on Freshwater, provide an effective

contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the ACC through the provision of policy, technical and scientific advice on environmental aspects of the sustainable development of freshwater resources. The potential of the Global Environment Monitoring System and other relevant global monitoring networks should be fully utilized.

51. At the country level, the United Nations system – through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, and the resident coordinator system – must enhance coordinated efforts and programmes in the area of freshwater. Better coordination is needed between the work of United Nations agencies and bilateral donors and international financial institutions. Possibilities should be identified for joint projects and missions.

52. Finally, the organizations of the United Nations, through the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, are invited to develop a consolidated guidebook on integrated water resources management, to replace existing sectoral guidelines, and to submit the guidelines to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its session in 2002.

VI. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

53. The Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management of the Commission on Sustainable Development met in New York from 23 to 27 February 1998, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63 of 25 July 1997. The Working Group held 9 meetings (1st to 9th meetings).

54. The meeting was opened by the temporary Chairman, Ms. Marta Inés Galindo (Colombia), Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

B. Attendance

55. The session was attended by representatives of 39 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, the European Community and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. (A list of participants is given in the annex below.)

C. Election of officers

56. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Working Group elected by acclamation, H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou (Benin) and Ms. JoAnne DiSano (Australia) as Co-Chairmen.

57. At the same meeting, the Co-Chairmen made introductory statements.

D. Agenda and organization of work

58. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Working Group adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1998/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strategic approaches to freshwater management.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

59. At the same meeting, the Working Group agreed to invite the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) to attend the session of the Working Group as an intergovernmental organization, with the status of observer.

E. Documentation

60. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strategic approaches to freshwater management (E/CN.17/1998/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on strategic approaches to freshwater management, transmitting the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management (Harare, 27-30 January 1998) (E/CN.17/1998/2/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of freshwater resources (E/CN.17/1998/2);

(d) Letter dated 11 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches

to Freshwater Management, held at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 27 to 30 January 1998 (E/CN.17/1998/11);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management (E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1998/L.1);

(f) Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development for the 1997 review of the Rio commitments (E/CN.17/1997/17/Add.1).

F. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

61. At the 9th meeting, on 27 February 1998, the Working Group had before it the draft report (E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1998/L.2), as well as an informal paper.

62. At the same meeting, the Working Group took note of the informal paper and adopted its report.

Notes

[1] Resolution S/19-2.

[2] See *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See A/51/116, annex II.

[4] See *Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 35/18.

[6] See A/CONF.115/PC/112, annex II.

[7] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[8] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[9] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996*.

[10] See *Report of the World Food Summit, Rome, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), (Rome, 1997).

[11] See A/C.2/45/3.

[12] Adopted at the International Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation, Noordwijk, Netherlands, 22-23 March 1994. See E/CN.17/1994/12.

Annex

List of participants

Members

Australia: JoAnne DiSano, Ross Walker, Howard Bamsey, Malcolm Forbes, Richard Bomford, Kerry Smith, Volker Aeuckens, Emma Ferguson, Kylie Oakes-Ati, Peter Hoey, Amanda Hawkins

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Mexico: Manuel Tello, Cesar Herrera Toleda, Gerardo Lozano, Roberto Cabral, Francisco Giner, Ramon Benitez, Veronique Deli, Sandra Pina, Ulises Canchola, Mirella Areyzaga, Bertha Elena De Buen, Ruben Barocio Ramirez

Mozambique:

Netherlands: Pieter Verbeek, Maarten de Hoog, Ron Lander, Vincent van den Bergen, Albert van der Beesen, Gerard Broseliske, Daniel Pietermaat, Jeroen Steeghs, Herman Verheij, Karin Wester, Linda Docter

Niger:

Pakistan:

Panama: Judith M. Cardoze

Papua New Guinea: Utula U. Samana, Jimmy U. Ovia, Adam V. Delaney

Peru: Marcela Lopez Bravo de Ruiz, Italo Acha

Philippines:

Poland: Wojciech Ponikiewski, Jacek Jaskiewicz

Russian Federation: Nikolai V. Tchoulkov, Georgy Voloviki, Vassili Nebenzie, Aleksandr Pankin, Dmitry Maksimitchev, Sergei Fedotov

Saudi Arabia: Ali Bahaitham, Ahmed ElDahry

Senegal:

Slovakia:

Spain: Inocencio F. Arias, Arturo Laclaustra, Amparo Rambla, Francisco Rabena, Marta Betanzos, Manuel Varela

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Zimbabwe: Machivenyika T. Mapuranga, Alfred Mutiwazuka, Sibokile Mtetwa

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Yemen

Entities represented by observers

European Community

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)

Non-governmental organizations

General consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Franciscans International, International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, World Wide Fund for Nature International

Roster or accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development: Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, Alliance of Northern Peoples for Environment and Development, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Earth Council, Friends of the Earth, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Netherlands Committee for IUCN, The Other Economic Summit, United Nations Environment and Development - UK Committee, Women's Environment and Development Organization, World Sustainable Agriculture Association, Zero